

Daily Eagle

KING CONSUMPTION

ON THE DECLINE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Progress of the Disease More Rapid, but the Number of Victims Steadily Diminishing—Numerous Testimonies—Prevention, Exercise and Climate.

"King Consumption," said a physician of reputation lately, "who has put so many in a decline, is at last on a decline himself in this city. He has not lightened his hold upon those upon whom he has once fastened, but the number of his victims is steadily diminishing. The progress of the disease, after it is once seated, is pronounced by physicians to be more rapid than it was when this generation was young, and there is a much more rapid transit from its inception to its culmination. A score of years ago cases of persons suffering from hacking, wasting coughs for many years were common, but now the disease generally does its work in a briefer period, usually in two or three years. Consumption has done more to enrich quack medicine manufacturers than all other diseases combined.

THE VARIOUS SO-CALLED CURE-ALLS. "The number of nostrums that have been put before the public as infallible is simply immense, and as varied, and their work as evanescent in its effect as the shifting groupings of a kaleidoscope. Each in its turn has beguiled the sufferer for a period and then left him no better, but rather worse, from the reaction following the temporary indulgence in fallacious hopes. No compound of drugs has stayed the disease, although the hypophosphites, lime, soda, and manganese help arrest it before it has a real foothold. Cod-liver oil is a food, supplying the fatty substances that most readily yield to the destroyer, but it merely feeds until the appetite of the disease becomes insatiable.

"Regular physicians look mainly to prevention, having little or no hope of curing consumption after it is once seated; but outside of their ranks all kinds of experiments are being made. Inhalation in various styles is practiced with oxygen, nitrous oxide gas, and air impregnated with drugs. The milk cure is one of the latest, the patients being sent to the mountains, where they are fed entirely on milk and breathe the pure air of the high altitudes. But, although such modern examinations have revealed completely electrified cavities in lungs, showing that forces and processes of nature had brought about a cure of consumption, the physicians have not yet penetrated the secret. The injection of antiseptic preparations has been proposed. Some eminent authorities hope for good results, but the value of the suggestion is yet to be demonstrated, and faith is reposed only in such means as may strengthen and harden the tissues sufficiently to turn the edge of the sharp teeth of the consuming disease.

"The decrease in the number of deaths from consumption in this city is the result of prevention and not of cure. More care is being exercised in observing the laws of health. Physicians are steadily inculcating deeper breathing and chest expansion by walking, riding, rowing and other exercise. More visits to the mountains are made, and the lighter air induces deeper and longer inspirations. Houses in the city are built with greater regard to ventilation and comfort, and the style of dress conforms more closely to the requirements of health. This is especially the case with women in the matter of shoes. Thin soles were once the rule. Now they are the exception."

HYGIENE AND HEALTH. Dr. J. T. Nagle, of the bureau of vital statistics, ascribes the decrease in the number of deaths from consumption partly to climatic changes. There are also, he says, better facilities for the care of patients, more care taken in preventing the disease, and more care is exercised as to breathing by those who have the slightest tendency toward pulmonary trouble, and indeed by people generally, deeper respiration being more generally the rule than it was years ago. The duty of bringing all parts of the lungs into use by means of deep and long respirations has been steadily inculcated by physicians and hygienic writers, and the instructions is bearing fruit; more light exercise is taken than in former years, and there has been substantial development of the chest and muscles by the use of gymnastics. The air is pure, and its being rarefied naturally leads to longer and deeper inspirations in breathing, bringing into active exercise portions of the lungs that have been unused. Dr. Nagle has much faith in the heroic treatment by injection of antiseptics. Where the disease is making steady progress it affords hope. Surgeons have succeeded in antiseptic treatment of injured intestines.

Dr. J. R. Leaming, a specialist in chest diseases, and one of the visiting physicians at St. Luke's hospital, said the improvement is due to the fact that people are paying more regard to the laws of health, are eating better food, and are dressing more sensibly. Houses are better built, and the facilities for living well have been greatly increased. Women especially are dressing with more regard to health than formerly, wearing heavier shoes and allowing more breathing space in their dresses. Physicians have strongly inculcated the necessity of deep, strong breathing, and people are taking the lesson to heart. Consumption is a disease of depression. People in depressed conditions, suffering from ineffectual struggles for livelihood, are peculiarly susceptible to the disease. The ship fever year, 1849, depressed the people, and it was followed by a larger number of cases of consumption. Everything that depresses the spirits favors consumption. Poor people are more subject to dependency, and hence they supply the greater number of cases of consumption. While he was a physician in a dispensary, Dr. Leaming found the Irish especially liable to consumption, particularly after the ship fever year. A cheerful disposition is a great preventive. Heaviness, he thinks, is merely a tendency. It does not transmit the disease itself, and children can by proper treatment be brought out from its influence.—New York Sun.

When Business Was Rather Slack. Meanwhile the cabman, having finished his first pennyworth of coffee, began upon a second, remarking to me as he did so: "This is quantity again quality, this is. When I'm flush of money I drink nothing less than beer, but when I'm down on my luck I sometimes fall as low as coffee." "It seems, then," suggested I, "that business is rather slack at present." "Slack!" echoed the man of whipcord with an intensity of feeling to which no words can do justice. "Well, I should rather say it was slack—just a few. If you was to try and cord a trunk with a stream of treacle you'd find that rather slack, wouldn't you? Well, that's pretty much 'ow it is with business just now."—London Cor. New York Times.

Phenomenon of a Green Ray. The French Academy of Sciences has been told by M. Treve of the curious phenomenon of a beautiful green ray which flashes into sight for a quarter of a second on the disappearance of the upper edge of the solar disc at sunset. The appearance can be seen only when the sky is exceptionally clear, and is probably an illusive effect on the eyes of the sudden extinction of the sun's glare.—Arkansas Traveler.

What Nellie Thought About It. Nellie celebrated her fifth birthday last week by a visit to the circus, where she was greatly enchanted with all she saw. When the female bareback riders came into the ring she screamed outright with delight. "Oo, oo," she exclaimed, clapping her hands, "just look at the angels!"—Somerville Journal.

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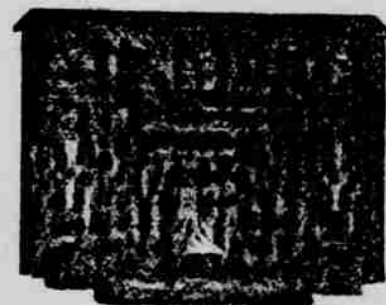
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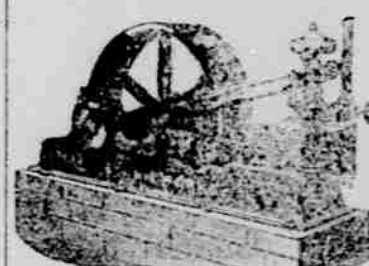
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Have for sale, on line of WICHITA & COLORADO RAILROAD north-west of Wichita, town lots at new towns of

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COLWICH, 14 " WICHITA.

ANDALE, 20 WICHITA.

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At Wichita, call on N. F. Niederlander or Kos Harris;
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